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Message Text

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53
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 123328
O R 191506Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8320
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OREP (HUMPHREY, H..#. AND SCOTT, HUGH)
SUBJ: CODEL HUMPHREY/SCOTT

REF: STATE 061058

1. SUMMARY:SOVIETS PROPOSE TO POSTPONE CODEL HUMPHREY/SCOTT VISIT UNTIL MID-MAY. END SUMMARY.

2. MARCH 19 MEETING IN THE KREMLIN BETWEEN EMBASSY AND REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPREME SOVIET INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR CODEL VISIT WAS INTERRUPTED BY URGENT CALL TO CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT, V.G. VYSOTIN, FROM V.P. RUBEN, CHAIRMAN OF SUPREME SOVIET COUNCIL OF NATIONALITIES, WHO HAD JUST GOTTEN WORD FROM SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON THAT CODEL WISHED TO DELAY VISIT FOR WEEK. (VYSOTIN DID NOT KNOW OF CODEL'S REQUEST FOR DELAY BEFORE OUR MEETING WITH HIM.) AFTER SEVERAL HURRIED PHONE CALLS AND MEETINGS WITH RUBIN, VYSOTIN IN A SOMEWHAT AGITATED STATE RETURNED TO ROOM TO TELL US THAT SUPREME SOVIET IS INSTRUCTING SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO INFORM CODEL THAT MARCH 30 ARRIVAL DATE IS UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT VISIT CANNOT TAKE PLACE EARLIER THAN MID-MAY, AFTER CELEBRATION 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II.
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3. VYSOTINGAVE AS REASON FOR POSTPONEMENT FACT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO HIGH-RANKING SURPEME SOVIET OFFICIAL IN MOSCOW TO RECEIVE CODEL. RUBEN IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION MEETING IN COLOMBO ON MARCH 26. A.P. SHITIKOV, CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF UNION, IS SICK AND IN THE HOSPITAL. B.N. PONOMAREV, CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF NATIONALITIES FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSION (AND CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER) IS "ON LEAVE." POLITBURO MEMBER M.A. SUSLOV, CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF UNION FOREIGN AFFARIS COMMISSION, IS ALSO "ON LEAVE" AND WILL BE "BUSY WITH OTHER MATTERS" DURING PROPOSED PERIOD OF VISIT.

4. WE STATED THAT MID-MAY MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TIME FOR CODEL TO BREAK AWAY FROM SENATE WORK AND ASKED VYSOTIN IF DECISION TO ASK FOR POSTPONMENT WAS FIRM. HE SAID IT WAS, UNLESS CODEL FOUND IT POSSILE TO COME ON ORIGINAL DATES AS PLANNED.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW03722
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750095-0959
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750337/aaaabgrd.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 061058
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL HUMPHREY/SCOTT
TAGS: OREP, (SCOTT, HUGH), (HUMPHREY, HERBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006